

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Stephen W. Boyd et al.  
Serial No. : TBD  
Filed : October 18, 2001  
Title : DEVICES AND METHODS FOR PORT-ACCESS MULTIVESSEL  
CORONARY ARTERY BYPASS SURGERY

Art Unit : 3738  
Examiner : D. Isabella

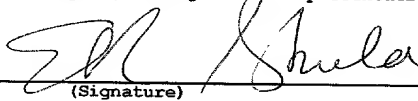
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October 18, 2001

(Date of Deposit)

E. Richard Skula

(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

  
(Signature)

October 18, 2001

(Date of Signature)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the Divisional Patent Application filed on  
eventdate herewith which is a Divisional of prior pending application Serial No. 09/487,024 filed  
on January 19, 2000. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

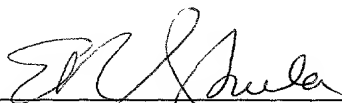
Please cancel without prejudice Claims 45-54 and 96-181.

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified Divisional Patent Application filed on eventdate herewith which is a Division of commonly assigned, copending patent application Serial No. 09/487,024. Applicants have canceled without prejudice claims 45-54 and 96-181. Remaining claims 1-44 correspond to the Examiner's Group I contained in the Restriction Requirement in the parent application.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen W. Boyd et al.

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